

# **PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **September 11, 2009**

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### MINUTES

1. Call to Order – 8:35 am by Marilyn Wilkinson
2. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
  - Gardner Grady – I am here to learn more about parks and what is happening throughout the county.
3. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
  - Mike McCoy – I just wanted to let everyone know that sadly we lost a member of our Otay Valley River Park Citizens Advisory Committee. Jim Lovewell passed away and he was previously an employee of County Parks and Recreation as well as the City of San Diego and was a great asset to the OVRP.
  - Paul Davis – There was recently a nice write-up about the San Elijo Nature Center in a magazine.
  - John Degenfelder – There is an open house tomorrow at the Ramona Airport from 7:00 am – 3:00 pm
  - Marilyn Wilkinson – Tomorrow is the San Miguel Fire Expo from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm in Rancho San Diego.
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - Approval of minutes from the July 10, 2009 minutes  
MOTION TO APPROVE – Paul Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike McCoy  
ALL IN FAVOR – 6-0-0
5. DEPARTMENT REPORT – Peggy Rose
  - Distributed the August Monthly Accomplishments.
6. PLDO & CSA Fund Balance Report – Brian Albright
  - Distributed CSA and PLDO reports.
  - We have been moving quickly to make sure that all of our PLDO and CSA areas have their money and are able to use them to continue the maintenance of the parks in the area.
    - ♦ Marilyn Wilkinson – Have you received the priority lists for most of the communities yet?
  - Yes, we have received most and are still working with those that have not submitted them yet.
7. ANNUAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM REPORT– Cheryl Wegner
  - I came to this group a few months ago and presented an overview of the volunteer program. Today I have our volunteer year-end report and statistics to show you.
  - We had over 4,000 volunteers and over 96,000 volunteer hours from July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.
  - Along with just tracking the number of volunteers and hours we also have dollar values that are associated with the volunteer work. For every hour of work there is a dollar value associated to it, which is \$20.25. The total value of our program for the year was over \$2.3 million. Along with the value we also have to take into

consideration the cost for the staff that oversee these various volunteers and projects. Each hour spent on a volunteer project is tracked and our total associated cost for the year was just under \$375,000. This still gave a total program benefit for the department of over \$1.9 million.

- ◆ Marilyn Wilkinson – Do you track hours for this group and other CSA and Advisory Committee groups?
- Yes, we do track the hours of those groups.
  - ◆ Doug Goad – Something that worked well for the City of Encinitas was where the city got a contractor that donated a portion of the materials and then there was a lot of volunteer work that actually went into the building of the park.
  - ◆ Rod Groenewold – Have you ever thought about working with partnering agencies like the Antique, Steam and Gas Engine that also is part of Guajome and we have a lot of volunteers that do projects for the park and other areas.

#### 8. RAMONA RODEO GROUNDS – Matt Bohan

- The Ramona Rodeo Grounds is located north of the Ramona Airport on the Davis Eagle property.
- Currently there is a Resource Management Plan being developed for the area, which includes active recreation sites such as this project.
- We still have to continue to get public input and support from the community for a project such as this.
  - ◆ Doug Goad – Would it be possible to get some periodic updates on what the public is saying at these meetings about this site. It might be helpful for this group to help support the department in their future endeavors.
  - ◆ Marilyn Wilkinson – it seems like this would be kind of a natural spot for a staging area.
  - ◆ John Degenfelder – Yes, especially since there is a lot of access to the area and it is a great starting point for both hikers and equestrians.
  - ◆ Marilyn Wilkinson – The Ramona Municipal Water district land in this area, do we have MOU's or anything with them to be able to use this land?
- I do not know if we have any agreements like that with them. I do know that they do use some of this area as spray fields .
  - ◆ Rob Hutsel – Have there been any bio studies done?
- The bio studies have been done. They just finished the field work, so now we are waiting for the reports to be generated.
- I do understand that many people don't know about this area because it is not open to the public, so we are going to the Board of Supervisors in October to try and start by reallocating money so that we can start by at least opening the Oak Country area to the public.

#### 9. BUDGET – Brian Albright

- As of last week we have received our budget direction for next year. There are two different scenarios we are supposed to plan for which are a 5% and 7% reduction.
- I know that many times in departments there is a percentage cut from each of the divisions across the board to make the amount of cuts required. I don't think that this is going to happen this time. We are going to start looking at what we do and our core programs.
- It is also time for our DPR Strategic Plan to be updated and we will be bringing that forward again later this fall.

- I am really trying to take a business approach to the budget cuts this year. I do not know yet how this will be taken, but there are going to be a lot of discussions about this.
- We would like any input from this committee.
  - ◆ Marilyn Wilkinson – I know that in our community we looked at the most usage of our parks and centers and were able to figure out that days like Sunday where there was hardly any use at the community center, yet it was fully staffed so they were able to make changes to the staffing levels and save some money.
  - ◆ Doug Goad – It seems like enhancing the passive use areas, trails and pathways, etc would be good since they do not require as much of the maintenance and upkeep. I think that there are enough community groups and leagues that we could get to help with the maintenance of these areas.
  - ◆ Mike McCoy – Each of us represent a district and maybe we should go to our supervisors and make sure that they understand our support for Parks during this budget time.
  - ◆ Doug Goad – Do you think that your management structure is sound and has a full grasp about all of the funds within the department.
- I know that we are continually working on processes and procedures that are focused on making sure that we do have tighter control, but we do have a good understanding of what we have out there as a department.
  - ◆ Rob Hutsel – Is there talk about looking to the future and long term and trying to figure out how to become self sufficient.
- We are always looking for new ways increase our revenue and streamline to make ourselves more self sufficient, but I don't know if we would ever reach 100% cost recovery.
  - ◆ Roger Utt – How do you manage the workload as there is still more work coming and yet no additional or even less staff to do the work.
- We are looking at all of our areas and ways to streamline and consolidate tasks and duties throughout our entire park system. It is always a work in progress and we are always moving forward.

10. Adjournment at 9:25 am

#### ATTENDEES

Mike McCoy, District 1  
 Marilyn Wilkinson, District 2  
 John Degenfelder, District 2  
 Paul Davis, District 3  
 Doug Goad, District 3 (arrived 8:45 am)  
 Rob Hutsel, District 4  
 Roger Utt, District 4 (arrived 8:50 am)  
 Rod Groenewold, District 5  
 Brian Albright, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Peggy Rose, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Cheryl Wegner, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Matt Bohan, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation  
 Gardner Grady, Public